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JB



Fletcher R. Hall
Executive Director

September 11, 2002

Docket No. 02N-0277
Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, Maryland 20852

**Public Health Security and Bioterrorism
Preparedness and Response Act of 2002**

To Whom It May Concern:

The Agricultural Transporters Conference of American Trucking Associations is a national organization, which represents the interests of the commercial transporters of agricultural commodities and farm supplies.

The Agricultural Transporters Conference has the following concerns regarding:

Section 306. Maintenance and Inspection of Records for Foods. This section, as written, would require that the parties to the shipment of "foods" keep records of "one-up, one-down" distribution and applies to "records relating to the manufacture, processing, packing, distribution, receipt, holding, or importation of the food.

The regulation pertaining to this section should provide for specific definitions for the terms "distribution and holding" and the term "food." The regulation will need to clarify these terms as they apply to those who transport agricultural commodities. The regulation should delineate whether paper or electronic records must be kept and the amount of time required records must be kept. **If these rules do apply to commercial agricultural transporters, and other carriers, we believe a copy of the bill of lading will satisfy these requirements and prevent duplication of effort and added expense. A period not to exceed five years would suffice as the time frame for the retention of records.** FDA needs to determine if electronic records will be acceptable to meet the statutory requirements and establish a specific time frame for electronic record retention.

The Agricultural Transporters Conference of American Trucking Associations appreciates the opportunity to comment on The Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002.

Sincerely,


Fletcher R. Hall

02N-0277
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